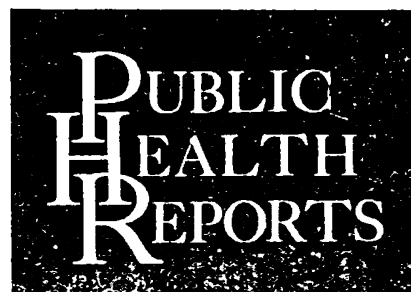


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PUBLIC HEALTH MONOGRAPH NO. 62 . . . Selwyn D. Collins' contributions to health statistics: A guide to his works.
Maryland Y. Pennell, Theodore D. Woolsey, Katharine S. Trantham, and Josephine L. Lehmann
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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ECHOES

Local Health Departments GROWTH or ILLUSION?

STUDENTS of public health as well as civic leaders have begun to scrutinize the efficacy of the traditional pattern of local health departments (1-3). A critical look at the growth of these departments in recent years is therefore timely.

The growth of local health departments may be measured in several ways, each way possibly leading to a different conclusion. When independent approaches lead to common conclusions, however, we are justified in having greater confidence in the findings. We have chosen three methods of measuring the growth of local health departments in recent years:

- Extent of geographic areas covered by local health departments.
- Annual expenditures of local health departments.
- Number and skills of full-time local public health personnel.

BARKEV S. SANDERS, Ph.D.

JANUARY 1959,
pp. 13-20

Dr. Barkev Sanders concluded there had been no growth in local health departments between 1950 and 1957, after an analysis of geographic expansion, annual expenditures, and number of full-time health department employees. He raised the questions of whether other agencies were supplying certain needed health services, whether American communities were less interested in health than formerly, or whether the health needs that local health departments can deal with effectively had diminished.